

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
Denver, CO

October 9th

Present: Todd Richardson (Vice Chair), Kyle Cowan & Mike Frary (for Kurt Kleiner), Hoss (Mike Hostetler), Jay McMahon, Joe Lowe & Andy Parker, Bill Ott, Ken Kerr, Don Angell, Glenn Bartter, Bill Hahnenberg (*Pete Blume on AL*), Debbie Bozarth (Admin Support)
Via Conference Call - Paul Summerfelt, Clair (Brownie) Brown (Chair), Dave Hall

2006-2008 Post Season Wrap Up with IC's:

Don Angell: Handout of evaluations of two assignments this year. Don felt they came out very well for the team. There were no items or issues from Agency Administrators.

A couple of recommendations/highlights from Don overall:

- The current method of determining team structure is very specific with a total numbers allowed identified in the mob guides. Recommend we give the IC's the freedom and flexibility to fill out their team as they need to.
- If we have a set of rules, let's live by them and don't change rules midstream. Distinguish which are rules and which are guidelines within the mob guide.
- Short/Long Team ordering: Don said that it doesn't matter which one is called for...just make sure that the rules are identified as well as the guidelines. He can function within either organization easily.
- The transition between Team A and Hahnenbergs Fire Use Team, on the Gunbarrel, was one of the best Don has ever undertaken, extremely smooth. The goals they had set out and they worked to, were good. The team, especially the section chiefs, really enjoyed that fire. It was one of the best and challenging fires, especially for the Finance, Operations and Logistics sections.

Bill Hahnenberg: Handout of summary of three assignments this year and other accomplishments. The Gunbarrel is the largest Fire Use fire RMA has ever taken on. 9 taskbooks were signed off. The Fire Use Field Operations guide was updated/revised.

- Major concern for Bill and others was the timing of the Executive email letter dated August 14. It came at a time when the FUMT was involved with a complex fire. It was a real distraction and affected team dynamics. Definite potential for safety to be compromised.
- Pilot car system with fire qualified personnel ordered and established to ensure safe traffic flow and minimal delay, resulted in excellent support from local entities, resulting in only minor effect and delay of traffic. New federal highway standards will be implemented 2009 and there will be costs incurred in the future with this. **Share with teams at spring team meeting and with dispatch.**
- Short/Long Team ordering: In 4 years/13 fires they have all been hybrids. (None have been solely fire use or solely suppression.) 20 to 30 people on the average assignment.
- The Fire Decision Group recommended by RMCG is a good concept. The Operations Committee needs to be involved in solidifying the roles and responsibilities and seek applications for it.

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
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Joe Lowe

- 3 Handouts regarding the assignment to Louisiana. Hurricane Ike, worked for one of the parishes. Provided mentor/coach/trainer/planner/logistical support/unified command/Blue Tarp Mission. LOFR - provided critical role. Traditional roles are changing, be adaptable/flexible. Establish unified command early on.
- Short/ Long Team Ordering: I work for the AA, doesn't matter if they request a short or long team. If short, rest of team released to freelance.
- Lessons learned with State to State compact assignment.
- The team was ordered by the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Texas ordered resources through the Interstate Fire Compact System.

ACTION ITEM: Future meeting/conference call with Ops Committee to discuss ordering procedures in regards to EMAC, IFCS, and any other related subjects. If there needs to be an issue paper this will help it be framed appropriately. Of concern to the Ops Committee are the ramifications to the RMA where a portion of a team gets called away to state emergency, outside of our area. Bill Ott, lead.

Paul Summerfelt:

- 2 assignments. The American River Complex 6/23 - 7/16, 10 fires, 3 very active. Heavy involvement from Calfire. The East Slide Rock Ridge - 8/23 through 9/4, started in wilderness, was WFU then became suppression. They were able to keep the LTAN plus his assistant, and that helped them go forward on that one. It was a large fire, took 16 hours to drive the perimeter. A remote spike camp was as large or larger than the ICP.
- There were a number of trainees signed off and moved through process. The team web site has executive write ups and evaluations and AAR's on the private site. Contact Paul individually if you want to see AAR's.
- Paul recommends to Ops Committee and to RMCg that for future team meetings, a single team be charged with setting up, facilitating & running the spring mtg. He made this request for is team last spring, and it went really well from his perspective, being a good opportunity to work with each other. Not all teams may be interested in this however.
- Short/Long Team Ordering: The Agency Administrator always have the prerogative of going through roster. It is incumbent on the IC to discuss what we can or can't do for them. It is a part of the working relationship with the agency.
- Discussed Pro's and Con's of assigning trainees to teams as opposed to carrying a pool to draw from. A lot of times you can encourage folks to apply as a trainee with the fact there will be a mentoring role and a trainer for them as a benefit. Acceleration is a possible outcome, and enhancement of the recruitment. Could have trainees status themselves national instead of local to facilitate this. Discussed the "Unassigned C&G Staff Pool. This list is not published in the mob guide. It is a short list the IC's can draw from.
- The T1 team surfaced some additional 520 candidates.

**RMA Operations Committee Meeting
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IC Recommendations from Ops Committee to RMCG for 2009 - 2011

Type 1

Paul Summerfelt

IC

Don Angell

T1 IC Trainee

(Don Angell, when trained, will become the DPIC, in position to take the team at the appropriate time, and a new trainee will be sought.)

Type 2 "A"

Bill Hahnenberg

IC

Todd Richardson

DPIC

Type 2 "B"

Todd Pechota

IC

Len Dems

DPIC (JobShare)

Larry Trapp

DPIC (JobShare)

Mark Hatcher

T2 IC Trainee

Type 2 "Zone" (See Operation Committee 10/10/08 minutes on Team Name)

Joe Lowe

IC

Fire Use Support Group

Ken Kerr

FUM1 (as needed, as available)

(The Operations Committee feels this recommendation gives due consideration to the future of our RMA Teams and also enhances the ability of the teams to effectively manage fires.)

With the reduction in 1 RMA team, the new futuring and the charge from the executive council and the RMCG, the Ops Committee felt there are more possibilities and growth in the above selections.

GPC Zone Team - the Ops Committee confirms they are qualified and the SD Zone Board selects.

Open Disclosure discussion about the recommendations.

S420/520/620 Selection/Reviews/Process

Todd R. is the Operations Committee liaison with the training committee. The S420 is at the Rocky Mt. Arsenal Nov 3-7. Fairmount FPD offered to be course coordinators.

Have 4 teams, some from non-traditional partners. All of our priority candidates are covered. It is important that when announcements go out, it goes beyond the Federal partners.

2009-10-11 Potential Mentoring Candidates for Out year Planning

S520 2009 Potential Candidates

OSC1 (T) Mike Tombolato

OSC1 (T) Dan Dallas

PIO1 (T) Jennifer Plyler DC-WOF

OSC1 (T) Geoff Bell

S520 2010 Potential Candidates

ICT1 (T) Todd Richardson

LSC1 (T) Chuck Hamilton (NY-NYS)

ICT1 (T) Todd Pechota

PIO1 (T) Brenda Bowen

PIO1 (T) Steve Segin

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
Denver, CO

SOF1 (T) Keith Long
OSC1 (T) Dave Van Norman
OSC1 (T) Dan Dallas
ICT1 (T) Bill Hahnenberg
OSC1 (T) Jesse Duhnkrack

S520 2011-12 Potential Candidates

PSC1 (T) Dave Silvius (MI-HIF)
PSC1 (T) Marg Olson (MO-MTF) (needs time on a T2 team)
OSC1 (T) Craig Warren
ICT1 or OSC1 (T) Shawna Legarza (NIMO)

Discussed LOFR's at S420. It is a critical position for all risk assignments. Make a recommendation as Ops Committee if you would like LOFR's on roster in future. Future for S420 possible field session, stay tuned. S520 is now a 1 week annual class.

IMT Position Selection Process/Discussion

Discussed the number of positions on a team. As per both the National Mob Guide and the RMA Mob Guide, there is flexibility in the standard 10/27/17. RMA 2008 Mob Guide pg 268 and National 2008 Mob Guide pg. 361. "Any variation from the standard configuration is at the discretion of the requesting unit." The RMCG has asked teams to do all things so we have to give them the flexibility to do it. Dave Carter said that they will be discussing the issue of team member numbers at their fall meeting, and the operations committee input will be valued. We are up for a new 3 year selection, and have the opportunity to redefine and describe how these teams and their structure will move forward. Brownie and Todd will be at the RMCG meeting. A part of the Ops Committee job is to represent what the IC's want approved or disapproved by the RMCG. We want the IC's to be able to have an open, responsive and equitable avenue to say yes or no to particular positions on a team, the ability to negotiate. Todd then felt we would devise a solid recommendation for RMCG. If the RMCG supports the IC's decision, gives them a lot of latitude.

Discussed expectation of team members. It is expected they will have to make themselves available, without knowing if the assignment is going to be short or long. From Ken, how will the Ops Committee assure that if a short team goes out, the remainder of the team is available down the road when a long team is available? **(See Bullet at end of the minutes, #5)**

Action Item: Ensure RMCG gives the Operations Committee direction on the Spring Team Meeting from the RMCG Fall meeting. (Clair, Todd)

October 10th

Present: Todd (Vice Chair), Mike Frary & Kyle Cowen (for Kurt Kleiner) Hoss, Jay McMahon, Bill Ott, Glenn Bartter, Bill Hahnenberg (*Pete Blume on AL*) Debbie (Admin Support)
Via Conference Call - Paul Summerfelt, Brownie (Chair), Dave Hall

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
Denver, CO

Reviewed Team IC & Trainee selections from the previous day. Received late IC Application and Ops Committee agreed to allow applicant to contact IC's about training needs.

Voting disparity discussed, RMCG and the Operations Committee differences. Current Ops charter wording is fine. Most of the time this committee comes to consensus, very seldom do we vote. Discussed the unequal representation during RMCG issue discussions where IC's don't all have the same opportunity to be involved in the discussion.

Action Item: Brownie will write "Unequal IC representation during issue discussions which affect all RMA Teams" issue paper for October meeting in Sidney.

Action Item: Hoss will work wording for the Operations Guide concerning strengthening the RMA involvement/interest on Teams.

Action Item: Debbie will send out email with the conference call number for 10/28 at 0900.

Agenda will include reviewing Charter, Operations Guide, RMCG meeting results.

866-566-0756 779375#.

Committee should review ops guide/charter in depth before the call.

Futuring/Upcoming Operations Committee Organization

Discussed who will be the next Vice Chair in January. It should be BIA, but Dave is spread a little thin as he is also on the RMCG and NRC committee. Will discuss as it gets closer.

January 2009 meeting:

1/13/09 at 0800: Subcommittee, T1 & T2 Team IC's (A, B, Zone)

Full Operations Committee 1/14 & 1/15 at 0800.

Agenda includes selecting 09-11 IMT's, Operations Committee Charter review/update, Review Action Lists (current and annual), annual meeting schedule, RM Mob Guide update, Duty Officer schedule, Develop Priority Trainee List, Recognition/Awards to RMCG.

Subcommittee as detailed in the current Operations Guide will meet with IC's before the full committee January meeting. Todd as Vice Chair would lead this subcommittee, however as he is also the potential DPIC for the Ty 2 Team, he is recusing himself and Mike "Hoss" Hostetler will lead this subcommittee, as this is his last year with the Operations Committee. Bill Ott will be a member, and they are requesting Debbie be there for admin support.

Paul requests that copies of all the applications be shared with all the IC's before this subcommittee meeting. Be careful about assumptions, there can be a ripple effect. Be careful about conversations ahead of time, IC's cautioned not to make any selections ahead of time. (Slave hunting to head hunting, no poaching). Paul's intent is to look at apps, do a draft roster and circulate to other IC's to work out duplicate needs. Committee should document subjective reasoning for use during review with full committee.

Action Item: Dave Carter will solidify the purchase of Ryan Blume's software. Dave guarantees we will have this software for use this selection period. Thank you Dave!

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
Denver, CO

We were faxed a late application for T2 IC Trainee. Decision by the Operations Committee is that he did not meet the application timeframes.

Executive Board: BLM CO-Sally Wisely, BLM WY-Don Simpson, USFS-Tony Dixon, NPS-Hal Grovert RM, Jim Loach GP, FWS-Bud Oliveria, BIA-Ed Parisian RM, Mike Black GP, WY-Bill Crapser, CO-Jeff Jahnke, SD-Joe Lowe

We would like to see this group listed on the website somewhere, maybe an RMCG link.

Freelancing:

The ops committee was **tasked by RMCG** to define in the 2009 RMA mob guide under what circumstance a team member can freelance? See Bullets at the end of the minutes.

Action Item: See Bullets at end of minutes, #5, a & b.

Procedures for rotation for RMA Teams and the Great Plains Zone Team:

Glenn will put together language. Bullets were created, see end of minutes.

Action Item: See Bullets at end of minutes, #2,#3,#4

Great Plains Zone Team vs RMA Interagency IMT:

Carter - An interagency team does not mob under EMAC. Changing that would have to happen at a level far above us. Our dispatch process is thru the federal system, we put money into that system. Discussed the fact there we have lost some potential candidates with situation to Louisiana.

Dave Carter's scenario, if a state Governor calls the state of SD Governor and wants a team, the reply should be that if you want to order them, they order out of the federal system. As per Jay, the GPC board at this time would appreciate RMCG tightening this up.

The Operations Committee recommendation is to re-identify Team C as a Zone Team.

Action Item: See Bullets at end of minutes, #1

Mike - Add to page 268 of the RMA Mob Guide

Action Item: See Bullets at end of minutes, #7

Variations to the standard short or long team configurations will be negotiated between the IC and the requesting unit on a case by case basis.

Discussed the top of page 269 in the RMA Mob Guide, where it says the 27 and 17 will be negotiated and concurred on by the IC and the Agency Administrator.

The LTAN and the FUM1 or FUM2 need to be in addition to the 17, for a total of 19. Within the RMA, our concept of teams are going to be different than most if not all of the other GACC's.

Propose that we add the following verbiage:

In the absence of organized and dedicated Fire Use Management Teams, the RMA T1 & T2 Team organizations request the addition of two positions in the LTAN and FUMA in order to adapt to multiple objective type fires. This needs to go on page 269.

Action Item: See Bullets at end of minutes, #6

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
Denver, CO

Discussed the role of the **Fire Use Support Group & the Decision Support Group**. The vision letter from RMCG of 9/11/08 outlines the roles and responsibilities of these groups. As we see team applications come in this fall, we take a hard look at the experience and potential of fielding these groups in advance. This group could also get together at the spring meeting and do some training on practical application.

Action Item: Add the **Fire Use Support Group & the Decision Support Group** to the **RMA Mob Guide**, using some of the language from the vision letter. Bill Hahnenberg will craft verbiage. See addition at the end of the minutes.

Bill Hahnenberg diagrammed the following table, and the Operations Committee decided that the preferred alternative to recommend up to the RMCG is ALT 1.

Fire Use Support Group Configuration Roles and Responsibility

Proposal from Vision Letter	ALT 1	ALT 2
FUM1	FUM1	FUM1
OSC2	OSC2 or FUM2	LTAN
LTAN	LTAN	
PSC2	GISS* or SITL*	
LSC2	FUM2*	
*Dependent on specific incident need , if a long term plan is needed & availability of skill already present.		

Recruitment letter

Try to bring in all interested players and not exclude positions. Send to a broad audience. Jim will do a first draft and send out to the committee for review.

Action Item: Edit 2009-2011 RMA IMT Application. Debbie will give Jim list of the current RMA Team positions. Jim McMahon, Lead

Mob guide assignments: Due by January 14, 15th meeting

Teams (Ch 22.9, 60) Mike, Todd

Crews (Ch 22.2, 22.3, 60) Hoss, Shawn

Equipment/Supplies (ch 23, 70) Sherry, Kurt

Engine Personnel (ch 23.10, 70) Dick S, Jim Mc, (Cliff Hutton, Scott Sugg)

Preparedness (ch 26) Bill O, Hoss, Shawn, RMC,

Business (ch 21.4,?) Sherry, (Denise, Beverly)

Lead is on the Ops committee, and is the **first one on the list**. If we missed listing something that needs reviewed, feel free to do so and bring up at January meeting.

Definition of Rules/Guidelines: If it is in the Handbook it is a Guide, and if it is a Manual it is a Rule. If it is referenced in the Manual, it is a rule. How bout that?

Next Operations Committee Conference Call: 10/28 at 0900

Agenda will include reviewing Charter, Operations Guide, RMCG meeting results.

866-566-0756 779375#

Next Operations Committee Meeting: January 2009

1/13/09 at 0800 (Subcommittee of IC's, Todd & Hoss)

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
Denver, CO

Full Operations Committee: **1/14 & 1/15 at 0800**

RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
Denver, CO

Bullets from RMA Ops Committee for the RMCG October 2008 Meeting

1. The Operations Committee, in looking at the RMA mob guide, believe the references referring to the Great Plains Zone T2 team as team C infers that this team is on the same playing field as the RMA teams, when in reality they have specific periods where they are not available outside their zone. The Ops Committee proposes the name changed from RMA Team C to the Great Plains Zone Team.
2. The rotation for the RMA T2 Teams should not include the Great Plains Zone Team under normal circumstances.
3. RMA Mob Guide Ch 22.9 #3 will be reworded as such:
 - a. The Great Plains Zone Team will be the first team assigned within the Great Plains Dispatch Zone (GPC) at all Preparedness Level (PL). The Great Plains Zone Team can be dispatched beyond the GPC Zone when the GPC Zone PLs are at 1&2 and Teams A&B are committed or U/A.
4. RMA Mob Guide Ch 22.9.1 M #2b will be reworded as such:
 - a. Once teams A & B are committed or unavailable, the Center Manager along with the Duty Officers concurrence will make the determination to make the Great Plains Zone Team available outside the GPC Zone during GPC Zone PLs 1&2.
5. In addressing the tasking by the RMCG on defining what circumstances a team member may freelance, the following sections in the RMA Mob Guide are noted and/or edited:
 - a. RMA Mob Guide Ch 22.9 #5 will remain the same.
 - b. Ch 22.9.1 F #4 will be reworded as such: If a short team is mobilized, the remaining long team members (Type 1 & 2) will be kept on-call until the IC decides to make them available for single resource assignments. If a team member decides to take a single resource assignment, they will see that assignment through in its entirety.
6. In the absence of an organized and dedicated RMA FUMT, the T1 & T2 RMA Team Organizations request the addition of two positions, Long Term Analyst and Fire Use Manager.
 - a. Add this verbiage to Ch 63.1.1
7. Add to the 2nd sentence under Ch 63.1.1 to read as follows:
 - a. Variations to the standard short or long team configurations will be negotiated between the IC and the requesting unit on a case by case basis.
8. **Fire Use Support Group Configuration Roles & Responsibility Proposal:**
 - a. **FUM1, OSC2 or FUM2, LTAN*, GISS*or SITL*, FUM2***
 - b. * = Dependent specific incident need , if a long term plan is needed and availability of skill already present.
9. Conflict of interest representations - Brownie writing issue paper.
10. Hoss is working on charter, not sure if it was for this bullet list...?
11. RMCG gives us guidance on Spring Team Meeting.

**RMA Operations Committee Meeting
October 9-10, 2008
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Fire Use Support Group-Role & Configuration
Submitted by Bill Hahnenberg

The Rocky Mountain Coordination Operations Committee met recently to review the direction from RMCG contained in the letter "Vision and Direction of the Future of the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area Incident Management Teams." The specific task was to discuss the Operations Committee recommendations for the Fire Use Support group "... to ensure the best possible outcome and direction for this group..." Accordingly the following recommendations are presented.

The Committee defined the role of the Fire Use Support Group as; "Assist, monitor and train Rocky Mountain IMTs in all aspects of long term fire management and planning." Given this defined role it is recommended that the initial suggested configuration for the Support Group be modified. This initial configuration was for the following 5 positions:

-) FUM1,
- 2) OSC2,
- 3) PSC2,
- 4) LSC2
- 5) LTAN/FBAN.

The suggested configuration to meet the described role is:

- 1) FUM1
- 2) OSC2 (preferably with fire use experience)
- 3) LTAN
- 4) GISS or SITL
- 5) FUMA 2

Positions 3-5 for the suggested configuration would be mobilized if the ordering Team anticipated that the Support Group would be tasked with developing a Long Term Plan (WFIP3, LTIP or WFDSS Response Level 3). The need for these 3 positions would also be dependant upon the IMT's availability of these skills.

And finally...

From the RMCG, you guys got to know that we **really appreciate** what you guys do, cuz it's **alot** of work...and we count on the Ops Committee to do your thing...

Thanks alot... Dave Carter, RMCG Chair